

7 Types of Staplers and How to Choose the Right One

The growing uses of paper in the 19th century created a demand for an efficient paper fastener.

In 1866, George McGill received U.S. patent 56,587[5] for a small, bendable brass paper fastener that was a precursor to the modern staple. In 1867, he received U.S. patent 67,665[6] for a press to insert the fastener into paper. He showed his invention at the 1876 Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and continued to work on these and other various paper fasteners throughout the 1880s.



A McGill stapler

Staplers have come a long way since then, and there are now lots of different staplers to choose from. In this buying guide, we look at the most popular types of modern staplers, their key features, and a couple recommended picks for each one.

1. Desktop Staplers

The most classic and popular type of stapler used today is the desktop stapler. Choose this stapler for occasional use and if you don't typically staple more than 15-20 pages of paper together at once. The design of desktop staplers varies from one model to the next, but they are generally inexpensive, lightweight, and portable. [SHOP DESKTOP](#)



2. Electric Staplers

Electric staplers are ideal for busy offices that generate a lot of paperwork. They simplify and speed up the stapling process with a power-driven staple head. This is also a great stapler to buy if you need to staple large stacks of paper, such as legal documents. You can find electric staplers in freestanding, saddle, and hand-held models and that are operated by buttons, switches, or foot pedals. [SHOP ELECTRIC](#)



3. Heavy Duty Staplers

Heavy duty jobs require a heavy duty stapler, and there are some industrial models specially designed for very thick stacks of paper. Many of these types of staplers, in both manual and electronic form, can staple 100 or more pages at once. However, they don't typically work as quickly as other types of staplers on this list. [SHOP HEAVY](#)



4. Plier Staplers

The big difference between plier staplers and other stapler types is that they have a bottom handle instead of a top lever to fasten items together. Plier staplers are commonly used in the shipping and packing industries because they easily and efficiently apply tags to pieces of paper. They're also used for arts and crafts projects, and heavy duty versions can be used for industrial purposes. Choose this stapler to seal cardboard boxes shut, or to staple difficult items together. [SHOP PLIER](#)



5. Long Reach Staplers

This stapler is designed for those hard-to-reach places that standard desktop staplers just can't get to. Use this stapler for binding books, brochures, or pamphlets. It's also useful for mounting cards on cork boards or walls. The extended-reach design typically extends to around 12-13 inches, which also help you place staples in the middle of pages. [SHOP LONG REACH](#)



6. Specialty Hand Staplers

Specialty staplers were created for offices with unique fastening needs, and there are several different types to choose from. For example, mini-staplers are great for fastening documents while on-the-go and fit easily in a briefcase. [SHOP MINI](#)



7. Reduced Effort Staplers

As the name suggests, reduced effort staplers make stapling more comfortable and ergonomic. This is a great stapler to buy if you staple large amounts of paper on a regular basis or if you have hand or wrist issues. Some of these staplers lessen the impact on your hands by as much as 50 percent. Offices working with high-volume legal documents, insurance contracts, and registration forms may want to invest in these staplers for their employees. [SHOP REDUCED EFFORT](#)

